



# Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests

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## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **"Red Flag Warnings Lead Off the Weekend"**

Hamilton, Montana, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 — Forest Service spokeswoman Nan Christianson announced that red flag warnings, indicating the potential for dry lightning storms, breezy conditions and record high temperatures, are predicted through midnight on Friday and throughout Saturday by the National Weather Service.

The Bitterroot National Forest has no new starts.

The Lolo National Forest has two new starts as of this afternoon; frustrating for firefighters and those living nearby, both are human caused.

- One start, near Nine Mile, is approximately ¼ acre in size. One engine from Frenchtown Fire Department and four Forest Service engines responded with initial attack.
- Earlier today, a vehicle malfunction along I-90 just east of St. Regis started a fire in grass and sparse timber. It grew to ¼ acre in size before being contained. St. Regis Volunteer Fire Department and Superior Ranger District engines responded, and the fire is now in mop-up.

Lolo National Forest Fire Management Officer Chuck Stanich asked that recreationists and landowners be especially cautious, "With fire conditions so high, it is frustrating that these most recent fires are both human caused. Western Montana firefighters will do all they can to fight fires as we find them, but we need everyone's help to prevent as many fires as possible." Stanich reminds residents that no slash burning is allowed in western Montana due to fire conditions.

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